Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /074 W -------044589 190251Z /63

R 181455Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5404
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGLICIGAL PA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: REACTION TO CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION: UDEL PROMOTES NATIONAL STRIKE

1. THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL), THE COALITION OF OPPOSITIONIST POLITICAL PARTIES AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS FORMERLY HEADED BY PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO, HAS DECIDED TO PROMOTE AN INDEFINITE PARO NACIONAL (NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE), IN THE HOPE OF CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR SOMOZA'S OVERTHROW. ALTHOUGH MEETINGS AMONG POLITICAL PARTIES AND BUSINESS GROUPS TO DISCUSS THE WORK STOPPAGE ARE STILL ONGOING, SOME WORKERS HAVE ALREADY GONE OFF THEIR JOBS. THESE HAVE BEEN PRINCIPALLY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, AFFILIATED TO THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED MANAGUA CONSTRUCTION WORKERS'S UNION (SCAAS), WHICH IS PART OF UDEL. ACCORDING TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY SOURCES, ABOUT 2,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AT SEVENTEEN WORK SITES, REPRESENTING ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF MANAGUA CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, WERE OUT ON STRIKE ON JAN. 16.

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2. COMMENT: GIVEN THE WEAKNESS OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN NICARAGUA, THE SUCCESS OF THE STRIKE WOULD DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE SUPPORT THAT IT RECEIVES FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INCLINATION ON THE PART OF ONLY SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SUPPORT THE STRIKERS OR AT LEAST REFRAIN FROM TAKING MEASURES AGAINST THEM. SOLAUN

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, ELAB, NU, (CHAMORRO, PEDRO JOAQUIN)

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